

**SIERRA – SAN JOAQUIN NOXIOUS WEED ALLIANCE**  
**Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2001**

**DRAFT Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes will be approved and finalized at the May 9 meeting.**

**Agenda Overview:**

1. Introductions
2. Senate Bill 1740 – Updates and progress reports for each project/county
3. Education Outreach – Events and Newspaper Articles
4. GPS Training – Schedule a date
5. Name for Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Weed Management Area
6. Items for next agenda

1. **Attendees:** Joanna Clines, US Forest Service; Wain Johnson, Mariposa UC Co-op Extension; Jenny Gabor, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Denis Griffin, Ca. Dept. of Food and Ag.; Toby Horst, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Bob Kerber, Cal Trans District 6; Jeannine Koshear, Ca State Parks; Peggy Moore, US Geological Survey; Barbara Pollock, Cal Trans District 10; Fred Rinder, Fresno County; Roscoe Rowney, CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection

2. **SB 1740 updates:**

**Cal Trans:**

Barbara Pollock (District 10) gave the update on the proposal for aerial spraying for Yellow Star Thistle (YST) along I-5 in Merced County. Their statewide EIR only covers ground spraying and will need an amendment to cover aerial spraying. The spraying will be done 2002/2003 upon the approval of the EIR amendments.

If all works well in Merced county, Mariposa County will be looked at next for aerial. Wain will gather site suggestions.

Ground spraying has been done in Mariposa County along Hwy 140, from Merced border up to El Portal (both sides of road) and Hwy 49 has been sprayed as well.

Bob Kerber (District 6) reported fence-line of Hwy 41 has been sprayed below Hwy 145 with Round-up targeting Russian thistle.

**Fresno County:**

The Prather, Auberry, Tollhouse (PAT) group went out to areas near Tollhouse looking for YST. It was estimated that 25 acres would need spraying in the Linson Lane area. A PAT group meeting was held on March 27<sup>th</sup> with key residents from the area in attendance that are ready to help out..

Fred Rinder reported the Fresno County Office has hired 2 seasonal employees and 2 more will be hired in May. Skeleton Weed: On April 17<sup>th</sup> 17 known sites with Skeleton Weed will be sprayed. Southeast McKinley/Fowler south on Fowler to North street are known infestations. Known infestations in vineyards and orchards will be walked row-by-row to survey. Other areas to be covered are Fowler east to Zediker, McKinley to North, and Hwy 99 past Reedley. Railroad tracks will be surveyed by foot.

Purple Star Thistle: The property has been turned over to a catfish farm on Shields and Riverbend. The landowner will be questioned regarding the history of the cattle on the property (where from?, where to?)

Yellow Star Thistle: The valley portion of Fresno County covering Academy, Herndon, Shepherd, north of Hwy 168 until Clovis city limits (175 miles in 3 days) is currently being mapped. (The students coming on in May will cover the foothill portion of the county.) Line reading as well as point reading has been done noting % coverage and distance from fence-line where the thistle is present. On Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

the in-kind spraying will be done in Burrow Valley. Watts Valley, Tollhouse and the patch along the powerhouse are to be done. Stan ~~Neil~~ NEAL, a member of the school board, is interested in keeping the grounds clean around the powerhouse area.

**Madera County:**

Don Mayeda was not present for an update

Jeannine Koshear reported Arundo control at Millerton is in the process of being mapped.

Roscoe Rowney reported the new weed brochures are to be given to individual landowners in Madera County as CDF goes around on their LA38 inspections.

A proposition is needed from Madera county to request hand-crews from CDF.

**Mariposa County:**

Wain Johnson reported 4 updates 1. The proposal has gone to the CDF supervisor requesting hand-crews at 6 locations (incl. El Portal, Coulterville, Mariposa, Spring Hill). Cal Trans has offered lane control and restrooms. Kent Woolsey with Public Works is to sponsor. 2. Ann Mendershausen of Mariposa RCD will be mapping YST, Klamath weed, Italian thistle, and Tocalote. NRCS is providing a vehicle. 3. The Mariposa Board will meet Tues, April 17<sup>th</sup> to approve landowner co-op contracts. Articles have gone out in the Tribune and the Gazette notifying landowners of the co-op opportunities for weed management. 7 or 8 landowners have responded. Wain will be conducting site visits to look at weed densities. 4. Wain will begin the Iberian Thistle project April 18<sup>th</sup> with Denis Griffin.

A local landowner was concerned with the safety of Transline use for weed management. Wain has done confirmations of the herbicides effects and reported back to the landowner.

**3. Education Outreach:**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> a YST Workshop** will be held at a landowners home covering Weed I.D. for YST and Tocalote, self management of the weeds, and co-op spray program options that are available. An article announcing the workshop went out in the Mountain Press.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** Sandy Brinley of the Oakhurst River Parkway is going to have a weed management booth at the **Earth Day Celebration,**. Articles will be out in newspapers announcing the event.

Education about herbicides is needed for landowners.

**4. GPS training:**

Training will be set up for the next WMA meeting (May 9<sup>th</sup>) covering Garmin and Trimble software manipulation. Pat Akers and Rosie Yacoub from CDFA will be contacted to request their assistance

**5. Name for WMA:** The Sierra – San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance has been agreed upon for the Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area.

**6. Future Agenda Items:** Public Relations Article, Monitoring Standards, Landowner Pesticide Education

**Emails to expect:** 1. Templates for updates on SB-1740 to be filled by committee members  
2. Mariposa County Co-op contract

**To be in WMA website:** 1. SB-1740 proposal (31 pages)  
2. April 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

**Notes taken by Jennifer Gabor, NRCS.**

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 AM, North Fork**